

HOW TO IDENTIFY GLOSSY BUCKTHORN

Frangula alnus

Glossy Buckthorn prefers sunny, moist sites. You're more likely to find this shrub growing in wetlands, but it will invade upland areas also.



Glossy Buckthorn infestation in a wetland.

Leslie Mehrhoff, Bugwood.org



Ripe fruit

Leslie Mehrhoff, Bugwood.org

Leaf arrangement

Alternate along branch, like many native shrubs.



Alternating leaf arrangement

Leaf appearance

Very glossy, dark green, oval leaves with a **smooth edge** (no teeth).

Leaf veins

Lateral (side) veins are **slightly curved**.

Fruit

Unlike Common Buckthorn, Glossy Buckthorn has male and female parts on all shrubs. The fruit is **pea-sized** and ripens from green to red to black.

No thorns!

Despite having "thorn" in its name, Glossy Buckthorn **does not have thorns**.

Flowers

Tiny and green, similar to Common Buckthorn.



Peter Dziuk, mwwildflowers.info

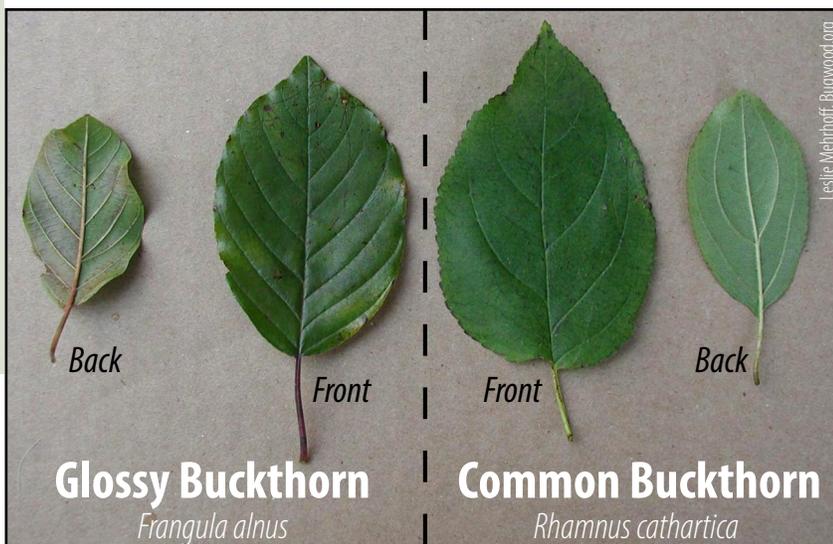
Bark

The bark of Glossy Buckthorn is similar to Common Buckthorn.



Leslie Mehrhoff, Bugwood.org

Which Buckthorn is It?



Glossy Buckthorn

Frangula alnus

Common Buckthorn

Rhamnus cathartica

Leaf color: **Very glossy dark green**

Leaf shape: Squat oval

Leaf edge: **Smooth** (no teeth)

Leaf veins: **Slightly curved**

Location: **Prefers wet areas**

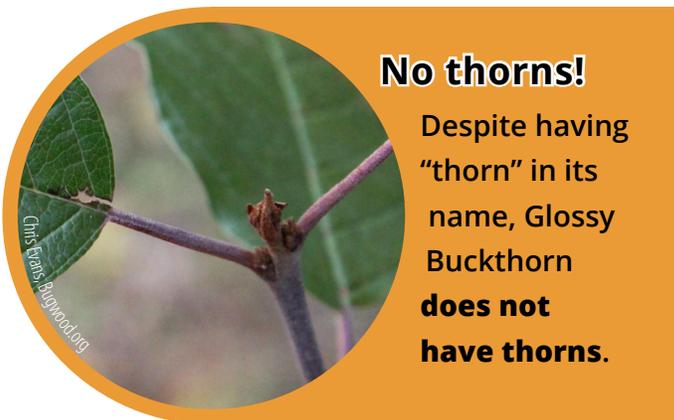
Leaf color: Glossy dark green

Leaf shape: Squat oval

Leaf edge: **Serrated** (toothed)

Leaf veins: Very curved

Location: Variable



No thorns!

Despite having "thorn" in its name, Glossy Buckthorn **does not have thorns**.

Chris Evans, Bugwood.org